

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 TRSE-00 SWF-01 AID-05

COM-02 OMB-01 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01

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DRAFTED BY EB/OF/FPD:CGBILLO:USDA:KMURRAY:JV

APPROVED BY EB/ORF:JLKATZ

EB/OF/FPD:MPBOERNER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:EAGR

SUBJECT: UPDATE OF 1974/75 INDIAN FOODGRAIN REQUIREMENTS

REF: (A) NEW DELHI 8817; (B) NEW DELHI 15932

PASS AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE

1. DURING NOVEMBER 29 MEETING OF MAJOR GRAIN EXPORTING AND IMPORTING COUNTRIES IN ROME, INDIAN OFFICIALS INDICATED THAT TOTAL 1974/75 FOODGRAIN IMPORT REQUIREMENT (JULY/JUNE BASIS) IS 7-8.5 MILLION TONS. BASED ON EARLIER REPORTS (REF A) WE HAD BEEN CARRYING TOTAL IMPORT FIGURE OF ONLY 6 MILLION TONS. LATEST INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL ESTIMATES LIST PROJECTED INDIAN WHEAT IMPORTS IN THIS PERIOD AT MAXIMUM OF 6-7.5 MILLION TONS.

2. GIVEN THIS APPARENT DISCREPANCY, WE NEED SOONEST
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EMBASSY'S LATEST ESTIMATE OF 1974/75 IMPORT REQUIREMENTS

BASED ON PRODUCTION/CONSUMPTION DATA ALREADY AVAILABLE AS WELL AS OUTLOOK FOR CURRENT HARVEST. IN ADDITION, DESIRE CONFIRMATION WHETHER 7-8.5 MILLION FIGURE CITED BY GOI OFFICIALS PROVIDES FOR ANY NET ADDITION TO STOCKS. (UNLESS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY, SUGGEST EMBASSY NOT REPEAT NOT INITIATE SPECIAL CONTACT GOI OFFICIALS TO OBTAIN THIS INFORMATION TO AVOID AROUSING UNWARRANTED SPECULATION ON US FOOD AID INTENTIONS, WHICH HAVE NO CONNECTION WITH THIS REQUEST).

3. IN REGARD TO ACTUAL AMOUNTS OF WHEAT ALREADY PROCURED OR EXPECTED TO BE PROCURED FOR DELIVERY (JULY/JUNE BASIS), USDA RECORDS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

SOURCE	COMMERCIAL	NON-COMMERCIAL	TOTAL
U.S	3,700	300	4,000
EC	700	360	1,060
CANADA	80	140	220
AUSTRALIA	200	40	240
ARGENTINA	250	--	250
U.S.S.R.	--	100	100
TOTAL	4,930	940	5,870

4. IN ADDITION TO ABOVE TOTALS FOR WHEAT, INDIA HAS REPORTEDLY PURCHASED COMMERCIALY 430,000 TONS OF SORGHUM FROM ARGENTINA. THIS BRINGS TOTAL FOODGRAIN ACQUISITIONS TO 6.3 MILLION TONS. WE HAVE ALSO NOTED POSSIBILITY OF GRANT BY SWEDEN (REF B).

5. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE ANY INFO EMBASSY HAS ON IMPORT ORDER SITUATION AS DESCRIBED PARAS 3 AND 4 ABOVE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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